

Wandering young Gentlewoman's

GARLAND.

IN FIVE PARTS.

PART I. How a Squire's daughter, near London, Was forced from home by her father's cruelty: but thro' her tender mother's care, she was well educated, and clothed in rich apparel: She understanding her father's hatred, made a robe of cat skins, in which she wandered away, carrying her rich apparel and jewels in a bundle.

PART II. How one evening she came to a knight's door, and craved a night's lodging in the stable, which was granted her, and next morning she was made scullion to the cook.

PART III. How the young Squire went to a ball, where he saw a beautiful young lady, in rich robes, who danced to the admiration of all the company, which put the young Squire upon asking her where she lived.

PART IV. How the young Squire seeing her again at the ball he was resolved to know who she was: Shewing in what manner he came to find it was Cat skin that was dressed in that rich attire: How he fell in love with her, and by feigning himself to be sick and going to bed, he got his parents consent to let Cat skin be his nurse; Likewise giving an account of their marriage.

PART V. After the death of her mother and sister, her father, who was very rich, came dressed like a beggar to her gate, craving charity: How she had him into her house, and of his giving her ten thousand pounds for her fortune.

G. Angus, Printer, St. Newcasle.

The Wandering
Young Gentlewoman's Garland, &c.

PART I.

YE fathers and mothers, and children also,
Draw near unto me, and soon you shall know
The sense of my ditty, and I dare for to say,
The like hant been printed this many a day.

The subject to you I am to relate,
It is of a 'squire of a large estate,
And the first dear infant his wife did him bear,
Was a young daughter of beauty most fair.

He said to his wife, had this child been a boy,
It would please me better and increase my joy:
If next be of the same sort I declare,
Of what I am possess'd she shall have no share.

In twelve months after, this woman we hear,
Had another daughter of beauty most clear;
And when that her husband knew it was a female,
Into a bitter passion he presently fell.

Saying, since this is of the same sort as the first,
In my habitation she shall not be nurs'd:
Pray let her be sent into the country;
For where I am, this child shall not be.

With tears his dear wife unto him did say,
Husband, be contented, I'll send her away:
Then into the country with speed she did send,
For to be brought up with one who was her friend.

Although that her father he hated her so,
He good education on her did bestow:
And with a gold locket, and robes of the best,
This slighted young female was commonly drest,

And when unto stature this damsel was grown,
 And found from her father she had no love shewn;
 She cry'd, before I will lie under his frown,
 I'm fully resolv'd to range the world round.

PART II.

BUT now mark good people, the cream of the jest,
 In what sort of manner this creature was dress'd,
 With cat skins she made her a robe, I declare,
 The which for her covering she daily did wear.

Her new rich attire, and jewels beside,
 Then up in a bundle by her they were ty'd,
 Then to seek her fortune she wander'd away,
 And when she had travell'd a whole winter's day;

In the even-tide she came to a town,
 And at a knight's door she then sat down
 For to rest herself, who was tired before;
 This uoble knight he came to the door;

And seeing this creature in such sort of dress,
 The lady unto her these words did express,
 From whence came you, girl, and what wilt thou have?
 She cry'd, a night's rest in your stable I crave.

The lady said to her, I'll grant thy desire,
 Come into the kitchen, and stand by the fire;
 Then she thanked the lady, and went in with haste,
 Where she was gaz'd on from the greatest to the least.

And being well warm'd, her hunger being great,
 They gave her a plate of good food for to eat;
 And when to an out house this creature was led,
 Where she with fresh straw did make up her bed.

And when in the morning the day-light she saw,
 Her robes and jewels she hid in the straw;
 And being very cold, she then did retire,
 To go to the kitchen and stand by the fire.

The cook said, my lady hath promised that thou
Shall be as a scullion for to wait upon me;
And what sayest thou, girl, art thou willing to bide?
With all my heart truly, to him she reply'd.

To work with the needle she could very well,
And for raising of paste, few could her excel:
She being so handy, the Cook's heart did win,
And then she was called by the name of cat skin.

PART. III.

THIS lady had a son both comely and tall,
who oftentimes used to be at a ball,
A mile out of town, at even tide,
To see the ball acted away he did ride.

Cat skin said to his mother, madam, let me
Go after your son this ball for to see;
With that in a passion this lady she flew,
And struck her with a ladle which she broke in two.

And being thus ferr'd she then got away,
And with a rich garment herself did array;
And to see this ball, with great speed did retire,
Where she danc'd so rarely that all did admire.

This sport being done, this young squire did say,
Young lady where do you live? tell me I pray,
Her answer was to him that I will tell,
At the sign of the broken ladle I dwell.

She being very nimble, got home first, 'tis said,
And with her cat-skin robes she soon was arrayed,
And in to the kitchen again she did go,
But where she had been then none of them did know.

Next night the young squire himself to content,
To see the ball acted away then he went:
She said, Pray let me go this ball for to view,
Then struck her with a skimmer, and broke it in two.

Then out of doors she run full of heaviness,
 And with her rich garments herself soon did dress;
 And to see this ball she ran away with speed,
 And to see her dancing all wonder'd indeed.

The ball being ended, this young squire then
 Said, Where is it you live? She answered him then,
 Sir, because you ask me, accounts I will give,
 At the sign of the broken Skimmer I live.

Being dark then she left him, and homeward did hie
 And with her cat-skin robe was dress'd presently;
 And into the kitchen among them she went,
 But where she had been they were all innocent.

When the squire came home, and found cat-skin there I
 He was in amaze, and began for to swear,
 For two nights at this ball has been a lady,
 The sweetest of beauties I ever did see.

She was the best dancer in all the whole place,
 And very much like our cat-skin in the face;
 Had she not been dress'd to that costly degree,
 I should have sworn it had been cat-skin bodily.

Next night to see this ball he did go once more,
 Then she ask'd his mother to go as before;
 And having a bason of water in hand,
 She threw it on cat-skin as I understand.

Shaking her ears, out of doors she did run,
 And dress'd herself, when this thing was done;
 To see this ball acted she then went her ways,
 To see her fine dancing all gave her the praise.

And having concluded, this young squire he
 Said, from whence do you come? pray lady tell me,
 Her answer, sir, you shall soon know the same,
 From the sign of the Bason of Water I came.

"Then homeward she hurry'd as fast as could be,
This young 'squire then resolved to see
Whereto she belong'd, then following cat-skin,
Into an old straw-house he saw her creep in.

He said, O brave Cat-skin, I find it is thee,
These three nights together has so charmed me:
Thou'rt the sweetest creature my eyes e'er beheld,
With joy and content now my heart it is fill'd.

Thou art our cooks scullion, but as I have life,
Grant me but thy love, I'll make thee my wife;
And you shall have maids for to be at your call,
Sir, that cannot be, I have no portion at all.

Thy beauty is a portion my joy and my dear,
I prize it far better than thousands a year:
And to have my friends' consent, I've got a trick,
I'll go to my bed, and feign myself sick.

There's none shall attend me, but thee I protest,
So one day or other, when in thy rich dress
Thou shalt be dress'd, and if my parents come nigh,
I'll tell 'tis for thee I'm sick and like to die.

PART IV.

HAVING thus consulted, this couple parted,
Next day the young 'squire he took to his bed,
And when his dear parents this thing both perceiv'd,
For fear of his death were heartily griev'd.

To attend him they sent for his nurse presently,
He said, none but Cat-skin my nurse now shall be;
His parents said, no, son; he said, but she shall,
Or else I'll have none for to nurse me at all.

His parents both wonder'd to hear him say thus,
That no one but Cat-skin must then be his nurse;
So then his dear parents, their son to content,
Up into the chamber poor Cat-skin was sent.

Sweet cordials, and other rich things were prepar'd,
Which between this couple were equally shar'd ;
And when alone they in each others arms,
Enjoy'd one another, in love's pleasant charms.

At length on a time, poor Cat-skin, it's said,
In her rich attire she then was array'd ;
And when that his mother the chamber drew near,
Then much like a goddess Cat-skin did appear.

Which caus'd her to startle, and thus for to say,
What young lady is this, son, tell me I pray ;
He said, this is Cat-skin, for whom I sick lie,
And with out I have her, with speed I shall die.

His mother ran down to call the old knight,
Who ran up to see the amazing sight ;
She said Why, 'tis Cat-skin we hold so in scorn,
I ne'er saw a finer dame since I was born.

The old knight said to her, I prithee tell me,
From whence thou did come, and of what family ;
Then who were her parents he came then to know,
And what was the cause of her wandering so.

The young 'squire cry'd if you will save my life,
Pray grant this young creature she may be my wife,
His father reply'd, thy life for to save,
If you are agreed, my consent you shall have.

Next day with great triumph and joy as we hear,
There were many coaches came both far and near ;
Then much like a goddess, dress'd in rich array,
Cat-skin to the squire was married that day.

For several days the great wedding did last,
Where were many tappins and gallant rich guests,
And for joy the bells rung all over the town,
And boules of canary traul'd merrily round.

When Cat-skin was married, then came for to raise,
To see her modish carriage all gave her the praise :
Thus her charming beauty the squire did win,
And who lives so great now, as he and Cat-skin ?

PART. V.

NOW in the fifth part, I'll endeavour to show
How things with her parents and sister did go,
Her mother and sister of life were bereft,
And now all alone the old 'squire is left.

And hearing his daughter was married so brave,
He said in my noddle a fancy I have;
Dress'd like a poor sailor, a journey I'll make,
And see if on me some pity she'll take.

Then dress'd like sailor, he went to her gate,
Where stood his daughter, who appear'd very great;
He cry'd noble lady a poor man I be, I
And I am now forc'd to beg your charity.

With a blush she ask'd from whence he came,
With that he then told her, and gave her his name,
She cry'd I'm your daughter that you slighted so,
Nevertheless, to you some kindness I'll shew.

Through mercy the Lord hath provided for me
Pray, father, come in and sit then, said she,
Then the best provisions the house could afford,
For to make him welcome was set on a board:

She said, you are welcome, feed heartily I pray,
And if you are willing with me you shall stay
So long as you live: he made this reply,
I only am come your love for to try.

Through mercy, my child, I am rich and not poor,
I have gold and silver enough now in store,
And for the love which at thy hand I've found,
For a portion I will give thee ten thousand pounds.

So in a few days after, as we understand,
This man he went home and sold off his land:
And ten thousand pounds to his daughter did give,
And now altogether in love they do live.

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